

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 653

By Sanderson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the pastor and congregation of Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church of Dyersburg on the celebration of their church's 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations that, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic community of faith is Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church of Dyersburg, the pastor and members of which are celebrating the church's 100th anniversary as an important presence in the community on March 18, 2018; and

WHEREAS, founded as a very small community of faith in 1918, the Pilgrim Rest congregation initially met in a framed building built over a pond, and Reverend Roundtree served as their first pastor; Reverend W. Shannon of Jackson, who is best remembered for his speaking and singing abilities, served as the church's second pastor; and

WHEREAS, Reverend J.H. Fenner was called to minister at Pilgrim Rest in the late 1940s and served faithfully there until his passing in 1964; during his administration, the church grew rapidly, and numerous improvements were made; and

WHEREAS, Reverend W.M. Hobson began his visionary seven-year tenure at Pilgrim Rest in 1964; a learned man, Reverend Hobson initiated a renovation program for the church building, ensured the church's sound financial standing, began Christian education classes for young people, and was instrumental in establishing recreational facilities, a day care center, and a senior citizens home for the community; and

WHEREAS, for approximately eighteen months in 1971-1972, Pilgrim Rest was without a pastor, but on the first Sunday of September 1972, Reverend W.L. McCadney, renowned for his deep voice and preaching and singing abilities, was elected pastor; the shepherd soon began to reclaim his flock, and church membership steadily increased; and

WHEREAS, during his twenty-nine-year tenure at Pilgrim Rest, the church achieved unprecedented financial security through increased giving by the congregation and good stewardship of the church's resources by the deacons and the board of trustees; and

WHEREAS, the father of five sons who were called to the ministry, Reverend McCadney oversaw the construction of a new church sanctuary, which was dedicated to the glory of God; and

WHEREAS, for the past two years, Reverend John Lewis has helped the Pilgrim Rest congregation stay the course and keep the faith by continuing the church's legacy as a beacon of light in the community that is dedicated to Christian service and benevolence; and

WHEREAS, God has blessed Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church of Dyersburg miraculously during its illustrious 100-year history, and its congregation gives thanks to the Lord for His past and continual blessings; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church of Dyersburg, thank the good people of this outstanding congregation for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.